



Oifig an Stiúirthóra, Claochlú agus Nuálaíocht

Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Ospidéal an Dr Steevens,
Baile Átha Cliath 8, D08 W2A8

**Director
Change & Innovation**

HSE, Dr Steevens Hospital,
Dublin 8, D08 W2A8

**www.hse.ie
[@hselive](https://twitter.com/hselive)**

**T: 01 6352232
E: acute.strategy@hse.ie**

31st January 2024

**Deputy Catherine Connolly,
Dáil Éireann
Kildare Street
Dublin 2**

PQ: 1956/24 - To ask the Minister for Health further to Parliamentary Question No. 1288 of 7 November 2023, for an update on the development of the new elective hospital in Merlin Park; the status of the development of the pre-tender business case; the expected timeline for the project to proceed through Stage 2 of the Public Spending Code; and if he will make a statement on the matter

Dear Deputy Connolly,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question which you submitted to the Minister for response.

Since the approval in December 2022 of the Elective Hospitals Preliminary Business Case, the HSE has been progressing the Elective Hospitals Programme. This includes work to further define the shape and scale of the hospitals and how they will operate and the initiation of procurement, ICT and workforce planning. The HSE is also preparing to develop detailed project briefs, design proposals, related business cases and other material, for submission to DPER. This is in accordance with approval gate 2 'Pre-tender Project Design, Planning and Procurement Strategy' of the Infrastructure Guidelines (previously the Public Spending Code), prior to approval to proceed to tender in due course.

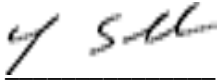
The HSE has progressed the procurement of an Architect Led Design Team which will be appointed to provide the full scope of design services for the proposed Elective Hospitals in Galway and Cork, and the provision of services required to support the Department of Health with the preliminary business case for the Elective Hospital(s) in Dublin. Stage 1-the preliminary qualification stage is concluding in the coming weeks. It is anticipated that the appointment of the successful Architect Led Design Team will take place by April/May 2024. The appointment of the complementary Project Control team will also be coordinated around this timeframe.

Timelines will be refined as the projects develop and evolve, but the overall programme targets for the Elective Hospitals remain as previously advised, with the hospitals in Galway and Cork planned to receive their first patients in 2027 and to be fully commissioned from 2028 onwards.

The HSE is also addressing waiting lists in the shorter term by expediting the development of 'Surgical Hubs' at locations across the country – including in Galway. Planning permission at Merlin Park has been granted. The tender process is complete and the contract is to be awarded.

I trust the above information is of assistance to you. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you require any additional information.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Yvonne Goff', written over a horizontal line.

Yvonne Goff

Director, Change & Innovation